

FRENCH BEATEN IN HEAVY CHARGE WEST OF MEUSE

Germans Repulse Counter
Attacks at Dead
Man's Hill.

BRITISH ATTACK
FAILS AT ST. ELOI

Heavy Shelling Only Activity
About Verdun, Says
Paris.

London, April 15.—That the French troops defending the fortress of Verdun have launched a vigorous counter-attack in the region of Dead Man's Hill, on the west bank of the River Meuse, was disclosed by the official report issued this afternoon from the German Army headquarters.

The attack followed violent artillery preparation and was directed against the German positions south of Corbeaux Wood, in the Cumieres Wood and on Dead Man's Hill.

Though line after line of French troops were mowed down, the German statement said, by the concentrated artillery and machine gun fire of the Germans, some French battalions succeeded in penetrating the Teuton position on Dead Man's Hill. On gaining a footing in the trenches there, however, Berlin declares, they were slain in bayonet fighting.

Paris Ignores Attack.

Paris officials are silent regarding this battle, the afternoon statement announcing that French batteries had evidenced great activity on the west bank of the Meuse, particularly to the west of Corbeaux Wood and along Forges Brook, and that no infantry engagements had taken place.

"On the left bank of the Meuse," says the German statement, "enemy attacks against our positions on Dead Man's Hill, south of the Bois des Corbeaux and in the Bois des Cumieres, preparations for which were made by the enemy's artillery fire, could only be carried through by a few battalions against Dead Man's Hill, thanks to the destructive concentrated fire of the troops which we had put in readiness on both sides of the Meuse."

"The attacking enemy waves broke down with the heaviest losses before our lines. The few who penetrated our trenches were killed in the hand-to-hand fighting."

Claim Repulse of British.

"On the right bank of the Meuse and on the Woivre plain the fighting activity chiefly was limited to violent artillery duels. Two weak enemy hand-grenade attacks southwest of Fort Douaumont were without result."

"A strong English advance against our crater positions south of St. Eloi (Belgium) was completely repulsed after a hand-grenade engagement."

"In the Argonne and to the east of that region there were lively local artillery and mine duels."

The only mention of the fighting at Dead Man's Hill in the Paris statement is as follows:

"To the west of the River Meuse there has been a fairly spirited bombardment of our positions between the wood of Malancourt and Hill No. 304. Our batteries evidenced great activity along this part of the front, particularly to the west of Corbeaux Wood and at various points along the Forges Brook."

The night statement said:

"In the Argonne we cannonaded the

roads in the region of Montfaucon, where troop movements were reported. "West of the Meuse the enemy violently bombarded during the course of the afternoon our positions in the Caurettes Wood and in the neighborhood of St. Eloi."

Canadians Swept Back
by Germans at St. Eloi

Ottawa, Ont., April 15.—Effective work by Canadian troops in resisting attacks by Germans at St. Eloi last week is detailed in the weekly eyewitness communication received to-day at the Militia Department.

Throughout the week of April 4 to 11, the communication says, vigorous efforts were made by the Germans to recover lost ground at St. Eloi. The struggle was bitter and intense, although the frontage taken by the British did not exceed 400 yards.

On the night of April 2-3, the eyewitness reports, the 27th Winnipeg and the 31st Alberta battalions of the 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade relieved the British. Taking over this line, with communication trenches practically non-existent, machine gun emplacements not yet constructed and under a German artillery bombardment was the task of the Canadians.

On April 5 the German artillery fire was resumed with increased severity and succeeded in demolishing the Canadian positions, inflicting many casualties. Companies of the 29th Vancouver Battalion, under Captain G. I. Gwynne and Lieutenant N. E. O'Brien, were sent to relieve the men in the advanced positions, but before the movement was completed each group became isolated and was attacked by a battalion of German infantry. The Canadians were hopelessly outnumbered and with scarcely a check the enemy captured two of the larger craters.

RUSSIANS LOSE 'PLANE
IN 2-HOUR AIR FIGHT

Austrians Repulse Squadron on
Bukovina Front.

Berlin, April 15.—An aerial battle in the Czernowitz region and the destruction of a Russian battle plane is reported officially to-day. The Russian squadron consisted of seven aeroplanes, four of which were of the large fighting type. On their appearance, says the statement, "several Austro-Hungarian flyers arose and gave battle, and after a combat of two hours in the air shot down one battle plane at a distance of thirty feet. The enemy squadron then fled. A damaged aeroplane landed near Hovan, between the Russian and our lines. It was destroyed by Austro-Hungarian artillery fire."

On the eastern front sharp fighting is going on between Austrian and Russian forces for positions on the lower Strpa and the Dniester River, in Galicia, and for others northeast of Czernowitz.

"Attempts made by the Russians yesterday," says to-day's statement, "to deliver local attacks northwest of Dvinsk were, like those on the previous days, unsuccessful."

"On the Servitche River, southeast of Goroditche, we easily frustrated an advance by weak enemy forces which had been prepared by strong artillery fire."

DENY WITTENBURG CHARGES

Ill Treatment of Prisoners British Invention, Say Germans.

Berlin (by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.), April 15.—The semi-official "North German Gazette" replied to-day to the charges of the British government committee that British prisoners in the Wittenburg camp suffering from typhus were treated brutally and neglected.

"The British charges evidently are inventions," says the "Gazette." "The specific charges made will be investigated, but it may be said in advance that they are merely repetitions of former charges which were repudiated not only by Germans, but by an important part of the neutral press. A committee of American surgeons which visited the Wittenburg camp came to the conclusion that hygienic conditions in general were completely satisfactory."

FRANCE DETAILS SUSSEX PROOF

Shows U-Boat Commander
Knew He Was Torpedo-
ing Channel Steamer.

FOUR PRISONERS
TELL FULL STORY

From Sister Submarine They
Think Entire Affair Al-
ready Known.

Paris, April 15.—Inquiries of the Ministry of Marine concerning the attack on the steamship Sussex have brought the following precise information from authentic sources:

"This information is not based upon suppositions or probabilities, and in that it differs from the statement of Herr von Jagow (German Foreign Minister). The facts have been established by a great number of witnesses."

"They establish that the commander of the submarine could not have been ignorant that he was attacking a Channel steamer making regular service between France and England. The route of these steamers differs from that of other merchantmen and is perfectly known to all sailors. Moreover, the route between Dieppe and Folkestone is essentially the route of Channel steamers, which make the journey at a fixed time, and the Sussex was passing by the regular route at the regular time."

"The commander of the submarine therefore knew he was dealing with a regular Channel steamer, and it was

clearly a premeditated attack against an unarmed Channel boat without the least warning to permit passengers to escape."

"It should be remarked that Herr von Jagow admits that a German submarine sank a steamer at 3:45 o'clock, and this hour is the German equivalent of 2:50, when the Sussex was attacked. Moreover, Herr von Jagow describes the place at which and hour when the Sussex was struck. He gives even the detail that the forward part of the bow was blown up to the bridge, which is exactly the condition of the Sussex."

"The torpedoing of the Sussex is confirmed by sailors of a German submarine which was destroyed a few days after the Sussex attack. Four of the crew of this submarine, made prisoners April 5, have given the name of the commandant and the number of the submarine which attacked the Sussex. These witnesses seemed to think the entire affair was known, so they had no hesitation in confirming all details of the torpedoing of the Sussex by their sister submarine which cruised in the same locality."

"Summarizing, the information obtained by the Ministry of Marine makes certain, first, that the captain and other witnesses saw the track of a torpedo and the captain maneuvered his ship to avoid the danger, which establishes the moral conviction that the Sussex was torpedoed; second, fragments of a German torpedo found on the Sussex add material proof to the moral conviction; third, the testimony of prisoners from the German submarine corroborates completely both the moral conviction and the material proof, establishing the case, so far as France is concerned, beyond any doubt."

REPORT BERLIN PLEDGES BROKEN

Continued from page 1

to them as proving the need of more definite pledges and more scrupulous observance of them.

Opinion here is divided as to whether these demands and the announced determination of the Administration to insist on prompt compliance with them will lead to a break. It is known that neither government wishes to go so

far as this, but that each has principles which it feels it must maintain.

Germans here familiar with the situation declare that the two points of view are not yet irreconcilable, though the charge of bad faith has made the controversy more serious. They declare that Germany will not for a moment consider abandoning her submarine warfare, which offers her only chance to strike at Great Britain. But they believe the campaign can be limited in such a way as to avoid any serious crisis. Also, they believe that this country will not force matters to a break and that public opinion here is not ready to sanction a break.

Anxious to Avoid Break.

Germany is anxious to avoid American hostility. The alienation of the last important nation, it is admitted, would be a serious blow. If this country should join the Allies, Germany fears that our vast wealth and great resources would greatly increase the odds against her. It is intimated, therefore, that when the Kaiser becomes convinced a break is imminent he may be willing to go much further than heretofore in promise and performance.

The two governments are expected to attempt to reach an agreement

whereby submarine warfare can be continued under guarantee that no merchant vessel on which there are Americans shall be attacked without warning or destroyed until all on board have been placed in safety, unless an attempt to resist or escape is persisted in up to the moment of destruction.

The German government has admitted that if submarines act wholly under the old rules of international law their effectiveness is lost. When warning has been given many vessels have escaped, and in some instances have destroyed the submarines.

The Kaiser may avoid further difficulties for a long time by keeping clear of passenger ships, and this would not seriously hamper the plan to starve Britain.

It is expected that Germany, in reply to the President's note, will send a general assurance of goodwill and no hostility for the interests of humanity, freedom of the seas, etc.—such a note as would create the impression that President Wilson was on the way to obtaining more concessions.

The President, in the present note, is believed to be attempting to make Germany solely responsible for breaking off relations. It is predicted that Germany, by a courteous and engaging reply, will endeavor to throw the bur-

den back on the United States.

An American, John D. Harrison, of Chicago, was aboard the steamer Margam Abbey, sunk without warning on April 8, American Consul General Skinner to-day cabled the State Department. Harrison was rescued.

Consul General Skinner's report was the first advice to the State Department that the sinking of the Margam Abbey involved any American citizen. Mr. Skinner's information came from the American Consul at Cardiff, Wales, where Harrison was evidently landed. Harrison was a steward on the sunken vessel.

The Consul at Cardiff said the Margam Abbey was sunk sixty-five miles south of Lizard Head, England, by a submarine without warning, and that the ship made no resistance.

The American Consul at Queenstown, reporting the destruction of the Aberdeen bark Inverlyon, cabled to-day that the ship was sunk by gunfire from a submarine after fifteen minutes had been given to abandon the vessel. Two Americans, he said, were in the one boat which was saved, and that none was in the boatload which is unaccounted for.

The Inverlyon, he reported, was unarmed and made no resistance. She carried a cargo from Portland, Ore. Last night's dispatches from abroad referred to the Inverlyon as a British steamer.

AUSTRIAN TRENCHES STORMED BY ITALIANS

Rome Claims Suggana Valley
Success—Denied by Vienna.

Paris, April 15.—A successful infantry attack on the Suggana Valley, reported officially from Rome. "On April 12 our troops took by storm the Santos Valdo position, west of Lancia torrent," says the statement, "capturing seventy-four prisoners, including three officers. On the 13th our troops solidly consolidated the position taken, despite a heavy bombardment by the enemy artillery."

To-day's Vienna statement admits there has been fighting in the above mentioned district, but says, "Enemy attempts to approach our lines in the Suggana sector failed."

Enemy hand grenades caused fires in the village of Prezio, in the Chiese district, according to the Italian statement. In the Adamello zone the Italians captured one machine gun and destroyed another by gunfire.

The Austrians admit that they were forced to evacuate a defensive position south of Sperone, on the Ponale road. The capture of an Italian position at Nardis is reported, together with the repulse of several counter attacks.

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Color combinations and patterns held exclusive to this shop in crepe de chine, men's silk shirtings, pussy willow satin stripes and linens.

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The strict Code of Etiquette which governs riding apparel and outfits for every other form of outdoor sport is observed to the least detail in Bonwit Teller modes for the sportswoman.

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Originations

Nearly to the waistline—there are new revers collars with the matching cuffs—developed in washable satin, pique and hand embroidered linen.

A Georgette collar (very deep in back) and a cape collar of fine-twill pique agree that hems may be plain or scalloped, but right side up they must be.

Fagoted edges of French blue linen complete the collar and cuffs of a "set" in pink-tucked French organdie.

Encircling the throat very snugly—a necklet of amethyst ostrich threaded with black velvet ribbon.

And now the high stock with its flaring upward points has added a cape collar just as flaring and just as pointed.

It is called Kuan-yao, this La Valliere with Chinese girl in dull gold on its jade pendant.

A La Valliere with pendant of sapphirine blue crystal cameo is set with tiny sapphires.

Thoroughly in harmony with the fragrant distinctness of her vanity bag—an electric flashlight in white enamel patterned in rosebuds.

Pocket books of Old Ivory and Perle Gray Leather match the shoes that complete the tailor that shall be known instantly as this Spring.

In silver-brocaded satin Georgette comes a hand bag with imitation Dutch mounting. While a silk bag brocaded in Chinese flat-flower effects prettens a Pagoda mounting set with jade.

New Sports Veils are white with a color scroll to match the sweater or sports coat.

A glass powder jar is concealed under the billowy rose satin skirts of a miniature china doll.

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Cheruit cape coats, Lanvin distended hoop pockets with cartridge plaits, FITTED COATS with marked waistlines in navy, gros de Londres and black satin, having Capuchin collars of gold velvet; Cheruit strap belt coats, Callot Soeurs puffed sleeves.

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